The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30,C. under the Act of August 24, 1912, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 11 NO. 47. WASHINGTON D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1921. WHOLE NO. 560.

NOTHER REVOLUTION STARTED IN NEW YORK

New York, Dec. 31.—For the seventh time a "revolutionary" party has been formed to save the workers and overthrow the government. The American Federation of Labor, of course, will go down in the grand crash.

The new venture it is to be known as the workers' party of America, which sounds smoother than communist party. It was formed in this city by about 160 delegates representing groups who demand purified, unadulterated revolution. The constitution of Moscow was incorporated and the usual program agreed to that will always turn the movement inside out.

The program was attacked by some of the delegates. One was asked enough to label the ponderous document "a lodge pooling of addled brains." Another declared it was a "mess" party, rather than a mass party.

Defenders of the program acknowledged its revolutionary nuisance, but headed that the need of the hour is to get a "live hold." Without a genuine revolution will begin. It was stated that the workers are unacquainted with the principles of communism, and this theory must be judiciously fed to them by the self-appointed guardians. A central executive committee, with wide powers, was elected to direct the affairs of the party. It will be captured and how workers are to be inoculated with the ideals of the third internationale.

The usual roof-raising denunciation of the capitalistic bureaucracy was indulged in. This is a favorite oratorical trick of capitalist and revolutionist.

The [illegible] will not be taken as a sign that the [illegible] revolution [illegible] camps. The [illegible] of cheap [illegible] and anything [illegible]

CURE [illegible] TAKES.

Denver [illegible] Judge Morrow has [illegible] the "cure" [illegible] late [illegible] because [illegible] activities of [illegible] commissioner [illegible] of the [illegible] The packing [illegible] court, are not such [illegible]

The [illegible] not affect the [illegible] while behind the "anti-strike" law, as the court, in effect, holds that any strike" that does not injuriously affect the public welfare can not be interfered with by the commission, but where workers are employed in a call ng or industry that is necessary for the public's every-day existence, these workers can not strike for 30 days after until the commission acts.

Judge Morrow's decision does not affect an injunction Judge's power to punish those who violate a court strike by issuing one of the well-known "thou-shalt-not" writs.

HERD STRIKEBREAKERS.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—The 15 wholesale bakers who are attempting to destroy the Bakery Salesmen's Union city strike made the regulation move in every anti-union campaign—started a "secret" organization with a polite term for herding strikebreakers. Some private bakery changes have long been looked upon as a favorite method of destroying the last vestige of the worker's self respect by supplanting the union headquarters as an employment bureau.

The employers are attempting to enforce open shop and other anti-union conditions, followed by the unionless monopolization of the industry. Nearly all the firms involved control an extensive shipping trade, and include the Gordon baking company, Ward baking company, the baking company, Brenman cake corporation and Atlantic & Pacific tea company.

STRIKE INSURANCE BUSTS.

Baltimore, Dec. 31.—Circuit Judge Stump has ordered the employers' underwriters agents to show why his concern should not be placed in the hands of a receiver. The request was made by the receivers of the strike insurance company which was employers' property and insurance and service corporation. The underwriters' agents were solicited to insure the strike insurance company, and operated under a charter from the company.

Judge Stump was told that strike insurance business is bad, with everything going out and nothing coming in.

TROOPS FOR STRIKE.

Frankfort, Ky. Dec. 31.—Although local peace officials have not requested troops, Governor Morrow has ordered a company of the state national guard to Newport, where a strike of steel workers has been on for several weeks.

RAIL SHOP EMPLOYES FIGHT CONTRACT PLAN

Chicago, Dec. 31.—The transportation and machinery department of just and reasonable wages and working conditions for all employees not signed by the trade union employees.

"Are the carriers to be allowed to deny such wages and conditions to certain shop or maintenance-of-way employes by reason of this contracting out?"

The above are two of the strong points made by organized shop employes in a brief to the railroad labor board that the practice of railroads contracting their repair work to private companies.

The Erie railroad originated this scheme to get from under the jurisdiction of the railroad labor board. Thirteen other roads have adopted the plan, including the Grand Trunk, Southern Pacific, Pere Marquette, New York Central, Big Four, Chicago & Alton, Chicago Great Western, Ann Arbor and Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul.

In their brief against the Erie's contracting its Marion, Ohio, shops to the private service corporation, the railroad shop employes show that the company's camouflage is that a large amount of capital which the service company carries on its business is $1,000, yet the payroll of the Marion shops is from $21,000 to $30,000 a week. The incorporators are known anti-unionists whose wage standard is 20 to 45 cents an hour. The manager of the company is R. V. Blocker, former master mechanic of the Erie, who came direct to the company from the service of the Erie.

"SUGAR COATED BUNK" IS FED TO WORKERS

Chicago, Dec. 31.—It would profit workers to be supported and read their labor press rather than swallow the "sugar coated bunk" that is daily fed to them, says George W. Perkins, president of the Cigar Makers' International union, in an article in the official magazine of that organization.

"The privileged few and big interests know the value of propaganda," says Mr. Perkins. "Hence:

"It is said that a lie travels faster than the truth; that half truth is worse than a whole lie. These people know that the constant teaching of false news and erroneous ideas creates a psychology that it takes years to destroy.

"The people, the public generally, are really hungry for news. They swallow without analysis these statements made for ulterior purposes. It would be much better if the workers got their views on economics from the labor press and from their own official journals. It would be better still if the most of us got down to rock-bottom facts and did our own thinking instead of swallowing the sugar coated bunk that we get on the news stands for 2 or 3 cents per.

"Newspapers are useful as a timetable, letter for baseball scores. Some like them for divorce news, murders and dinner parties and wedding announcements. We have no objection to anybody reading the daily news. We the class conscious, but when it comes to our own best interests let us be guided by facts and our own deductions.

"The most of us know that a good bill of prices, reasonable working hours and fair shop conditions are the proper things for us, and we, therefore, know that the best way to get these things is through the trade unions. On this there is no argument. Any one who disputes it has an ax to grind or has space to rent in the top of his head. He might be, however, repeating parrot-like, things he has heard from those who are divergent from those of the workers."

LOW WAGES IS COSTLY.

New York, Dec. 31.—High wages and increased production, rather than low wages, is urged by George H. Firmin, in a leading article in the Annalist, financial paper published in this city.

"It is no argument in favor of reduction merely to assert that wages are now 50 or 60 per cent higher, as the case may be, than in some previous year in the history of the industry," he says.

"The real question is to remain at their present level drastic wage cuts are indefensible.

"Production must come down. This much is indisputable; the only question is, by means of low wages, disproportionate to the cost of living, have in the past resulted in probably unwarranted standards and ideals of living, limited markets and lessened efficiency through diminished vitality, causing slack work and restrained production?

"Dollars are of value only as a medium of exchange."

CLEVELAND AVERTS STRIKE.

Cleveland, Dec. 31.—A widespread strike in the Cleveland needle trades manufacturing industry was averted when shops, members of the Cleveland Garment Manufacturers' association, and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, signed an agreement after several weeks of negotiations on working conditions.

The agreement is practically the same as that initiated in local shops two years ago. All strikes and lockouts are barred and provision is made for adjusting disputes through a system of impartial boards. A forty-one weeks of continuous employment each year is guaranteed, as is the further development of weekly production standards.

The agreement remains in force until Dec. 31, 1922.

URGE OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 31.—On January 10 and 11 a state-wide conference will be held in this city under the auspices of the state federation of labor to discuss old-age pensions and take suitable action thereon. Labor organizations are invited. Several of these bodies have declared for old-age pensions.

PICKETING ENJOINED.

Bridgeport, Conn., Dec. 31.—Judge Kellogg of the superior court has issued an injunction restraining newspaper offices where a strike has been on since last August.

Coal Owners Hide Production Costs

Washington, Dec. 31.—It is impossible to ascertain the cost of producing coal, said Senator Frelinghuysen, who declared in the senate that the buyer and the government can secure this information, which is necessary to stabilize the coal industry on a stable basis.

"The whole subject," said the New Jersey Republican, "is locked in a smoke screen of inky darkness that does not seem ever to lift. The national coal association in the Maynard case obtained an injunction which prevented the federal commission's investigation of costs.

"The government's brief in the case, by like that which led up to the great miners' strike in 1919. Then, as now, the effort was made to 'bury' strike, a period of abnormal unemployment, widespread unemployment among the coal miners. The discontent caused by that condition of unemployment led to the direct cause of the miners' strike.

"Under the Cummins bill, which has contracts in the union fields expire on March 31, 1922, there will be $60,000,000 to be paid to over 500,000 men come up for settlement in a time when nothing like that will stall a break. We have not taken one step to alleviate the conditions of the mines. Instead, we have let the situation drift until the mine workers are now facing the prospect of unemployment since the panic of 1907.

"In an effort to break the jam, said Senator Frelinghuysen, it was proposed to authorize lumber production in freight rates to encourage coal buying.

"But the organized coal lobby succeeded in recommitting the bill to the committee, having before it a practical plan to ameliorate the lot of the coal miners, has listened to the coal lobby and put the plan by."

Meat Packers' Greed and Arrogance Is Exposed

Chicago, Dec. 31. — Rescind the wage reduction order and restore workers to pay, pending arbitration proceedings.

The above plan will end the nation-wide strike of butcher workmen, says C. J. Hayes, general president of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, in a memorandum of the strike submitted to the secretary of Labor Davis.

"The packing house workers," says President Hayes, "listened to the appeal of the government in the winter of 1917 and signed an agreement with the president's mediation commission to submit all disputes to arbitration during the war period.

"Had they exercised their economic power during the period of actual warfare and during the years of 1918 and 1920, these workers could have exacted wages 100 per cent higher than they obtained through the process of arbitration.

"In March, 1919, the five big packers addressed Secretary of Labor Wilson on their own initiative, wage reduction and the arbitration agreement be extended for a period to run one year after the war. They based their request on their reason for desiring an extension of the agreement 'that they desired peace in the industry during the reconstruction period.'

"The packing house workers again listened to the earnest appeal of the department of labor and signed a further agreement of arbitration.

"On February 21, a few days prior to the exit of the Wilson administration, the packers arbitrarily attempted to withdraw from their agreement with the department of labor. Only by the most earnest persuasion by Secretaries Davis, Hoover and Wallace that they were induced to return to the agreement for a period of six months expiring September 15, 1921. The packers, however, before agreeing to return, compelled the employes to make a reduction in wages of 12½ per cent in their wages. This was in March of this year.

"In July of this year the packers petitioned Judge Alschuler, the arbitrator, for another reduction of 5 cents an hour. After hearings and deliberation, Judge Alschuler denied the request, setting forth in his award that the cost of living and the labor market did not warrant such a decrease.

"Following the expiration of the Alschuler agreement, the Butcher Workmen's union waited upon the five big packers and presented an agreement on that basis for negotiations.

"The demands contained in that agreement provided that the wage scale and working conditions then in effect should continue and that all changes should be made only upon mutual agreement or through the process of arbitration. The agreement did not contain any demand for the union or so-called closed shop.

"The packers refused to negotiate with the union.

"November 1 the packers announced that the reduction would take effect November 28 and that unskilled labor, which constitutes fifty per cent of the total employes, would be reduced 2½ cents an hour —from 45 cents to 37½ cents. The semi-skilled workers were to be reduced 5 cents and hour and the skilled workers, 7 cents an hour.

"The national executive board of the Butcher Workmen's union, immediately called upon the packers, seeking a conference to discuss proposed wage reduction. Such conference was refused. At no time have the so-called representatives of the industrial relation plan ever conferred with their fellow workers. Their agreement with the packers to accept a wage reduction was never submitted to their fellow workers for ratification. In fact, the packers' so-called 'industrial plan' has never called a meeting of the workers since its inception in the packing plant.

"The average wage of the unskilled worker at the rate of 45 cents an hour has been $18 a week for 40 hours per week, due to the fact that they have not worked over 40 hours per week."

PACKERS' PRIVATE WAR IGNORED BY PUBLIC

New York, Dec. 31.—The meat packers are continuing their private war against organized butcher workmen, but the indications are public will insist on justice, when once acquainted with the facts, is also shown to be fiction.

The strike is nation-wide, but to date "consumer entertainer" that is paraded by the public press when the packers' "cattle" strike is on, has failed to protest.

The strikers have made numerous offers to arbitrate and have appealed to the government to act against the meat trust, but in spite of using the strike to squeeze independent and raise prices. Nothing has been done.

Trade unionists point to this situation as a refutation of the claim that workers can trust "the public" to succeed them justice rather than depend on their own efforts. This beautiful theory has proved unfounded, the unionists say, as the public is less interested in justice than in getting cheap meat and conference, as shown by their interest when the miners or railroad workers talk strike.

In discussing the present meat strike, the New York Tribune sounds this warning to the "innocent bystander":

"Since the packers needed collective bargaining to hold their men, they used it, with success sufficiently unemployment so that they have a chance to win a strike they forced upon their men by refusing arbitration. Unless public opinion and governmental intervention make it did in the case of the threatened railway strike, the 'big five' (packers) are probably going to establish a principle of the 'country will pay' the costs in the form of higher prices for meat."

URGE LOWER WAGES.

San Francisco, Dec. 31.—The California state labor council at this time has asked the state to reduce the wages of workers in the minimum wage from $14 a week to $12.50.

Organized labor is resisting this decision. Working girls receive live on the proposed schedule, I do not believe that labor can live on it," said Sarah Hagerty, member of the Garment Workers' union. "It is almost impossible for a girl to live decently on the $16 minimum, and if this is reduced I do not know what will happen."

Last year, when the state set the minimum wage at $14, there were 30 working women was heralded to the country. The list included $5.65 per car fare during the year. This is 16 cents a day. If a working girl lives street cars every day going to and from work she must levy upon some other portion of her budget —that was arranged with mathematical exactness by the state commissioners. A total of $12 for the year is allowed for amusements, for room rent for the girl $182.50 is allowed. This is $3.13 a week. Other items in the $16 a week minimum budget will be cut by the educational system, which employers would not have rearranged, so that wages will be $12.50 a week.

OPPOSE GUN MEN.

Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 21.—The central labor body of this city has appealed to congress against the brutality of coal owners' gun men in West Virginia. The unionists charge that Sheriff Claflin of Logan county is using his authority and the other county machinery to persecute miners, and that he is being aided by Governor Morgan, who has assigned state cossacks for this work. The cossacks are making wholesale arrests for imaginary offenses and Claflin, it is stated, issues warrants without regard to facts, while men are railroaded to jail without preliminary hearings.

The workers ask that congress act to the end that this reign of terror be stopped.

HEALTH BY WIRELESS.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The United States public health service has started a bi-weekly wireless health bulletin service over the international coal association in the Maynard case obtained an injunction which prevented the federal commission's investigation of costs.

The government's brief in the case, by like that which led up to the great miners' strike in 1919. Then, as now, the effort was made to 'bury' strike, a period of abnormal unemployment, widespread unemployment among the coal miners. The discontent caused by that condition of unemployment led to the direct cause of the miners' strike.

Under the Cummins bill, which has contracts in the union fields expire on March 31, 1922, there will be $60,000,000 to be paid to over 500,000 men come up for settlement in a time when nothing like that will stall a break. We have not taken one step to alleviate the conditions of the mines. Instead, we have let the situation drift until the mine workers are now facing the prospect of unemployment since the panic of 1907.

"In an effort to break the jam, said Senator Frelinghuysen, it was proposed to authorize lumber production in freight rates to encourage coal buying.

"But the organized coal lobby succeeded in recommitting the bill to the committee, having before it a practical plan to ameliorate the lot of the coal miners, has listened to the coal lobby and put the plan by."

BREAD PRICE GOES UP.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Following Attorney General Daugherty's announcement that profiteers would be probed, wholesale bakers in the nation's capital raised bread prices 1 to 2 cents a loaf. The cost of flour is blamed.

LATEST PRICE PROBE JEERED BY STRIKERS

New York, Dec. 31.—Striking butcher workmen jeer Attorney General Daugherty's announced probe of profiteering.

In a letter to the federal official, other workmen point out that Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen say the packers' "cattle" strike is a smoke screen to cover up the sins of the beef trust and the friendly inaction of the "anti-trust" laws.

The unionists remind the attorney general that the beef trust has called his attention to price raising methods by the beef trust, but to date he has not even acknowledged receipt of the letter.

"Instead, we note that you have publicly charged the retail merchants of the country with the guilt of high prices and have joined hands with Chief William-J. Burns to investigate the retail meat and grocery shop keepers.

"Coming at a time when the entire nation is aroused over the attempts of the packing interests to profiteer during the present crisis, make the public pay the bill in profiteering meat prices, your attack on the retailer looks like a smoke screen to cover up the sins of the beef trust and the inactivity of your department.

"If notice be taken by the department of justice, we shall be compelled to conclude that justice is not to be administered to the people through the duly constituted authorities of government.

"In a statement issued in connection with their letter to the attorney general, the unionists said:

"Every one knows that the big packers own the wood sinners. It is big business, not little business, which levies the biggest toll on the public. The packers' profits alone in New York during the strike proves this. Swift & Company reaped 39 per cent, while retail prices advanced 19 per cent.

"We know a lot about the packers' control of the federal government. Under the present administration of justice against the big packers has been conducted with such a lack of energy as to be practically a mockery of justice.

"If notice be taken by the department of justice, we shall be compelled to conclude that justice is not to be administered to the people through the duly constituted authorities of government.

"In a statement issued in connection with their letter to the attorney general, the unionists said:

"Every one knows that the big billions upon the wood sinners. It is big business, not little business, which levies the biggest toll on the public. The packers' profits alone in New York during the strike proves this. Swift & Company reaped 39 per cent, while retail prices advanced 19 per cent.

"We know a lot about the packers' control of the federal government. Under the present administration of justice against the big packers has been conducted with such a lack of energy as to be practically a mockery of justice.

SELL WHEAT DIRECT.

Washington, Dec. 31. — "For the first time in the history of American agriculture, farmers have sold their wheat direct to Europe without the aid of the grain exchanges, brokers or other middlemen," says the Alberta co-operative commission's news service.

"The steamer Texan has left Portland, Ore., with 60,000 bushels of wheat for London and Antwerp, shipped by the Pacific Grain growers, the farmers' co-operative marketing agency of the four northwestern states. While this is the first co-operative shipment of wheat, it is not the first of the grain market, the 'northwestern farmers have already shipped nearly a million bushels of wheat to the Orient under special contracts. The valuable connections thus established will save thousands of thousands of dollars for the farmers in commissions, brokerage charges, profits and at the same time reduce the cost of wheat flour to the consumer, thus eliminating the speculative element."

WHY WALL STREET WINS.

New York, Dec. 31.—Wall street can fool others, but it never attempts to fool itself, declares Edwin Lefevre in his statement by the Wall Street Journal, which says workers might learn something from it.

"Wall street is not wanting in faith, but it does not greatly believe in accidents. It is so much a part of its business to reason that it reasons effects to causes, to protect itself against the future by reasoning from experience. Hence, it has small room for the idea that events which seem fortuitous are really not.

"FAIR" PROFITS ARE MADE.

Washington, Dec. 31.—In a warning in the house over the American valuation plan that some tariff advocates have in mind, Representative Green, who is supporting the plan, scored importers for profiteering. He said the Chicago department store charged 45 for a knife which can be bought in Germany for $.85 cents.

PLUMBERS' STRIKE ENDS.

East St. Louis, Ill., Dec. 31.—The plumbers strike that has been waged for nearly a year, has been satisfactorily adjusted.

RAILROAD MANAGERS ARE NOT "GENEROUS"

Cleveland, Dec. 31.—The Locomotive Engineers' Journal exposes the stock generosity of the Pennsylvania railroad, in fact the latter "it is not averse to hearing complaints of organization" says the Journal, "but not within the company employ."

"Knowing, as it does," says the Locomotive Engineers' Journal, "that these 'will be 'comparatively few' who will take that 'of the hundreds of disputes brought before it less than five were brought by and for organized employes.

"The conclusion is clear enough. The unorganized employe, whether members or the company 'union' or not, dare not complain. When, the Pennsylvania says that it 'is the sole right to select the delegates to represent employes' and 'to conduct the proceedings and pass final judgment on the results, it merely informs the world that it proposes that it does not intend to grant the employe any liberty of action, any right to the conduct of affairs concerning him."

FEDERAL PERSONNEL BOARD.

Washington, Dec. 31.—President Harding has created a semi-official commission to be known as the federal personnel board. The body is intended to improve the service and economy of employes in the various government departments. The members of the board will be officials of the civil service commission, heads of independent establishments and executive departments and a director of the civil service commission.

The board, the executive order said, will be expected to formulate rules governing the classification of employes between one branch and another when emergency work is required, the method of maintaining a special force of employes on a temporary basis in different departments, for training individuals to special work, and certain services required for facilitating promotions to higher grades for employes classified service.

It will also be expected to develop systems for personnel records and to consider all questions relating to hours of service, retirement, leaves of absence and similar detail.

WOULD OUTLAW BLOCS.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The success of the Farm Bloc in national lawmaking body has aroused the ire of Representative Anderson, who "shudders to think what will happen to our representative system" if organized farmers "go into politics."

Mr. Ansorge has introduced a bill which would fine any lawmaker who affiliates with any sort of bloc. The bill is aimed at the bloc idea who openly profess their purposes, but to the end that secret understandings that men agree to in the privacy of exclusive clubs and hotel rooms.

Mr. Ansorge is serving his first term in congress. He is a lawyer with offices in Wall street. In his biography printed in the Congressional Record he modestly (members themselves write) it is stated that Mr. Ansorge was born in Germany and was active in football during his college years.

RESIST FEDERAL PROBE.

Washington, Dec. 31.—If the government is "meddle" with the steel industry, it can control the public utilities in the latter's behalf, the steel corporations in its two-year contest with the federal trade commission.

The federal board is attempting to ascertain wherein the profits of steel manufacturers oppose the plan. The commission recently ordered the secretary of steel companies to produce their books, but were stopped by an injunction.

When these business men can act upon to raise wages, how can they refuse to reduce the cost of living for workers is taken as a matter of course.

FIGHT HIGHER RENT.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Landlords have announced increases of from 15 to 31 per month in the operation of the Ball rent act, next May, and are interested in a campaign now on for extending the life of the act. The law was passed by the district of Columbia, and has been upheld by the United States supreme court. Under the law the commission is empowered to set rents.

FIGHTS RAIL GUARANTY.

Washington, Dec. 31.—In a public statement Senator La Follette warns the country that the railroads are endeavoring to perpetuate the rate guaranty provision of the Cummins-Esch act.

This feature of the transportation act will expire by statutory limitation on March 1.

GIGANTIC MERGERS NOW BEING FORMED

New York, Dec. 31.—The imagination of Wall street is aflame with stories of gigantic combinations.

Every industry, including machinery and tobacco lead in this movement. In fact, the packers' so-called 'industrial plan' has never called a meeting of the workers since its inception in the packing plant.

"The average wage of the unskilled worker at the rate of 45 cents an hour has been $18 a week for 40 hours per week, due to the fact that they have not worked over 40 hours per week."

COAL MINERS ARE WARNED THEY WILL BE ATTACKED

Other Unions May Be Involved—English Capitalists Aiding Movement—Unity of Invested Interests Clearly Shown

Indianapolis, Dec. 31.—From England comes a warning to the United Mine Workers of America that coal owners are preparing to attack them all along the line at the expiration of their wage agreement. next March. Other trade unions may also be involved.

The information is forwarded by Henry Evans, English correspondent of the United Mine Workers' Journal. He is well-known to older American trade unionists because of his association with the movement on this side of the water.

"I have information at hand," he writes, "that there are several persons over here representing some of the largest financial, industrial and commercial interests in the United States. These persons represent districts that are entirely under the jurisdiction of the United Mine Workers of America. They are seeking and gathering up all information from employers in the various mining districts concerning the wage reductions that have taken place during the months from July to November. Every detail is given them from the employers' combine.

"These people are out to break up the United Mine Workers of America and every other labor union, if it is possible to do so. Their method is to work short time and starve the workers before they fight them, which was done over here before our 13-weeks' stoppage in the summer. We were properly cleaned up before we started to fight.

"The attack off will be rejected by the American coal operators in your next conference. That is one of the questions which they inquired much about. So there is more to these missions than wind.

"I intend, if possible, to get you a full report of the reductions that have taken place in the various districts since we started to work in July, and any other information that I think may be of interest to you. Don't misunderstand my writing to you on these questions that I am in any way sending them to interfere with your future plans, I simply send them as information, to show how closely allied are the interests of the two nations in their invested interests.

"Work is very slow in many of the mining districts. The condition of my fellow craftsmen is deplorable. Poverty is quite rampant."

HOOPER'S ANTI-STRIKE LAW.

New York, Dec. 31.—"The master cure has finally been found—a remedy for all ills that beset the transportation system of the land," says Warren S. Stone, grand chief of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union.

"Ben W. Hooper, former governor of Tennessee and now vice chairman of the United States railroad labor board, speaking amidst the friendly surroundings of the New York railroad club, blazed forth a solution for the labor troubles on the railroads that is bound to place his name with Governor Allen of Kansas among the immortal politicians who will save us against our will.

"Like Allen, the father of the industrial court of Kansas, Hooper is also a friend of labor. What more could he be? All he wants is to curb the unjust demands of organized labor and control some of the activities as threaten the public welfare. In this he is very emphatic, for he claims that the survival of this republic depends upon this. Along with this 'curbing' business is handled.

"In short, he advocates an anti-strike law on the railroads which would have its concrete expression in the form of an injunction, the partial tribunal to decide all questions between the railroad managers and the workers.' After that will come the millenium.

"Come to think of it, the Kansas industrial court is also an 'impartial tribunal' which says that practically it is now handling the meat strikers of that state."

"BACK TO NORMALCY."

Washington, Dec. 31.—In his report to A. F. of L. headquarters, Henry P. Hilfers, general organizer of the A. F. of L. cites the condition in one New Jersey town. "A shirt factory was opened in Bloomfield by a firm that moved here from Long Island. The price list for the first one dozen shirts is 18 cents. The highest that an experienced operator can get is 125 cents an hour.

"One girl, who is an experienced operator, took a job and worked for 12½ hours and earned $1.42; another 12 years and another, an experienced operator, earned 38 cents for 12 hours' work."

HUGE PROFITS IN ICE.

New York, Dec. 31.—In eight years the American ice company has put back into its business a surplus profit of over $15,884,

For 1920 this trust announces a gross profit of $1,758,000, and a net of $553,252. The profits and surplus are exclusive of taxes and all other charges.

Company "Union" Dodges Real Test

Seattle, Dec. 31.—The directors of the loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen held their semi-annual meeting in Portland, and on his return to this city, George R. Sypher, local representative of this company "union," said:

"We did not discuss minimum wages and working conditions, but notified President Harding that the industry had limitation of armament conference."

To this announcement, Ray P. Cowden, president of the Pacific Coast International Union of Timber Workers, replied:

"Hot dog! The price of lumber is on the up grade, but they could not afford to raise the scale of wages and working arrangements. When the price of lumber goes on the down grade they found plenty of time to discuss those 'insignificant' matters and avoided opportunities to talk about them.

"Then, it might be a case of raising wages and they sidestepped beautifully. They are lovely persimmony when it comes to conference with labor.

"Now, instead of taking up the issues that confront the workers in the industry, they seek to keep under cover of the conference by sending telegrams to the president. Well, after all, it is only a cheap telegram, and will be one way for them to find out just how little they really amount to. If the disarmament meeting does not have any better success in securing international justice than the Four Us has had in securing justice for the workers in the timber industry of the northwest, it will be recorded in history as the big joke of the century."

Meat Prices Raised Because of Strike

Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 31.—Meat packers assure the public that prices will be cut if they can enforce a wage reduction, but this claim is not sustained by a salesman's bulletin issued by one packing firm.

The salesmen are informed that "You should be able to secure fully as much over prices listed in the last bulletin."

"In a good many cases," it is stated, "we have been obliged to make substitutions at advanced prices. Remember that competition, with the exception of one, or possibly two, are working under the same handicap as we are.

"Advance your list on pork loins, butts, shoulders, picnics and cured leaf lard 6 cents a pound. Hold to full prices and secure overages wherever possible. Lard prices are advanced and we do not want any business at present.

These orders to gouge the public come from employers who have organized ostensibly to fight with the labor unions, but in this form of warfare it is evident that the public is to be the victim.

INDUSTRY'S TERRIBLE TOLL.

Los Angeles, Dec. 31.—In 10 years there have been 1,000,000 injuries to workers in industry, and 6,000 deaths, according to Frank C. French, chairman of the state industrial accident commission, in a speech in this city.

"During these 10 years," said the speaker, "the workers have suffered permanent injuries, and 6,000 deaths (including 50 women) are charged to industrial accidents. Yet the 6,000 dead were buried side by side, following three days' work. Two workers are killed and more than 500 are injured."

PLEA FOR VETS' AID.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Senator Ashurst has served warning on his colleagues that adequate hospitals and adequate appropriation is made for sick and disabled former service men he will inaugurate a single-handed campaign "against the men who have no patriotism in the public interest."

Arizona lawmaker insisted that idlers who burned with patriotic fervor during the war have forgotten the boys.

OPPOSE WAGE CUTS.

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 31.—Organized labor in this city is opposed to any reduction in wages, it was declared at the meeting of the central labor union here last night.

AMERICAN RAILROADS AID JAPAN'S SHIPPING

Washington, Dec. 31.—Complying with a request by the senate, the interstate commerce commission has compiled a list of contracts between American railroads and foreign steamship companies.

These contracts show why millions of tons of shipping are taken from American steamships and subsidies are favored and certain American ports neglected. It is used to revive the La Follette seaman's law that the American merchant marine is dead.

In the far northwest prominent trunk lines agree with Japanese steamship companies to divide traffic between each other in their respective countries. The Northern Pacific and St. Paul railroad pledges the Osaka mercantile steamship company that it will not discriminate against the Japanese concern, while the earnings from joint through freight rates will be divided between the two parties.

The Great Northern railway company agrees with the Nippon steamship company that both shall work for the mutual advantage of the Jap ships shall be given preference in traffic to and from the Orient. The railroad company also agrees "to exercise its best endeavors to secure exemption from or reduction in port, pilotage, lighthouse dues, etc., that steamship companies pay."

These agreements show that the American railroads and Jap shipping companies are working as one in the disadvantage of American ships that would build up a trade in the Orient.